

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: VANCE-BRZEZINSKI-YOUNG

1. TWO HIGHLY RESPECTED PUBLICATIONS HAVE IN THEIR CURRENT ISSUES PUT FORWARD REMARKABLY SIMILAR ANALYSES OF A PERCEIVED TUG OF WAR AMONG THE HEADS OF STATE, NSC, AND USUN CONCERNING AMERICAN POLICY IN AFRICA.

2. "JEUNE AFRIQUE" (PARIS) CARRIES A STORY, "AMERICA LEAVES THE SHADOW," BY AMIN MAALOUF, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A REPORTING VISIT TO THE US. EXCERPTS: "SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IN JANUARY 1977, THREE TENDENCIES HAVE COEXISTED AMONG MEMBERS OF HIS TEAM CONCERNING AFRICA. THEIR SPOKESMEN ARE AMB. ANDREW YOUNG. ... MR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, ... AND MR. CYRUS VANCE....

3. "ACCORDING TO MR. YOUNG, THE SOVIET-CUBAN ROLE IN
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AFRICA SHOULD EVOKE NO 'SPECIAL' RESPONSE FROM THE US. TO HIM, MOSCOW'S SUCCESSES ARE MORE LIMITED THAN THEY MAY SEEM. IF THEY HAVE WON IN ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA, THIS BARELY COMPENSATES FOR THEIR DEFEATS IN EGYPT, SUDAN, SOMALIA, AND ELSEWHERE....INSTEAD OF JUMPING INTO THE FRAY EVERY TIME AN ALLY--OR FORMER ALLY--IS IN TROUBLE, WASHINGTON SHOULD, MORE WISELY, SETTLE FOR THE

ROLE OF ARBITER, 'GET ON THE RIGHT SIDE,' AS DO THE SOVIETS, SUPPORT AFRICAN NATIONALISTS AGAINST RACISM, ESTABLISH GOOD RELATIONS WITH IMPORTANT COUNTRIES-- NIGERIA, TANZANIA, ALGERIA, FOR EXAMPLE--WITHOUT TRYING TO IMPOSE AN IDEOLOGICAL CHOICE ON THEM....

4. "MR. BRZEZINSKI IS NOT SYSTEMATICALLY OPPOSED TO THIS ATTITUDE. HE AGREES THAT IT IS NOT GOOD TO BE ATTACHED TO THE CHAMPIONS OF APARTHEID AND THE US SHOULD ESTABLISH GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE AFRICAN REGIONAL POWERS. BUT SINCE HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENSEMBLE OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS, HE PLACES SOVIET-CUBAN POLICY IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT, AND AS A RESULT, HE BELIEVES THAT EVERY WEAKNESS ON WASHINGTON'S PART WILL ENCOURAGE MOSCOW TO 'ADVANCE ITS PAWNS' ON THE WORLD CHESS BOARD. IT IS THUS NECESSARY ONCE IN A WHILE TO BANG ON THE TABLE SO THE SOVIETS WILL KNOW THAT THEY ARE NOT ACTING WITH IMPUNITY AND SO THAT WASHINGTON'S CREDIBILITY IS MAINTAINED IN THE EYES OF ITS ADVERSARIES AND ABOVE ALL ITS ALLIES.

5. "BETWEEN THESE TENDENCIES, MR. VANCE REPRESENTS A MODERATING ELEMENT. THE CHIEF OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY, WHO HAS HIS FEET FIRMLY ON THE GROUND, IS TAKING CARE OF MANAGING HIS COUNTRY'S POLITICAL INTERESTS, DRAWING NEARER TO MR. BRZEZINSKI WHEN SOVIET PRESSURE BECOMES UNCLASSIFIED

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GREATER, MOVING BACK TOWARD MR. YOUNG WHEN THE 'HARD-LINERS' DARE PUT DETENTE IN QUESTION BY LINKING AFRICAN EVENTS WITH THE SALT NEGOCIATIONS." END EXCERPTS.

6. MORE SUCCINCTLY, "WEST AFRICA" (LONDON), IN AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL TITLED, " AFRICA, RUSSIA, AND THE WEST," SAYS: "... AMERICAN POLICY ON AFRICA...SEEMS TO BE FACING THREE WAYS AT ONCE. MR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI LOOKS DETERMINEDLY TO THE RIGHT, INSISTANT THAT RUSSIAN AND CUBAN INTERFERENCE IN AFRICA SHOULD NOT BE COSTFREE; MR. ANDREW YOUNG, ANXIOUS THAT 'CONCERN SHOULD NOT BE TRANSLATED INTO PANIC,' STANDS BACK TO BACK WITH HIM; IN THE MIDDLE IS MR. CYRUS VANCE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE , WHILE PRESIDENT CARTER HIMSELF SOMETIMES SEEMS TO SWIVEL BETWEEN THEM, LIKE A SPECTATOR AT A TENNIS MATCH. THE CONFLICT MUST HAVE DELIGHTED THOSE IN THE RUSSIAN CAMP WHO ARE MISGUIDED ENOUGH TO WANT TO ESTABLISH A HEGEMONY OVER AFRICA." END EXCERPTS.
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